MASS. EA14.2:Se48

(Division of Conservation Services)

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SELF-HELP PROJECT SELECTION SYSTEM

In order to distribute limited Self-Help funds among an overwhelming number of applicants, a project selection system has been developed. This system is a review process which considers a number of demographic, social, environmental and project quality factors in order to identify those projects which best protect natural resources in communities which have the greatest need for financial assistance and which have made efforts to implement their opens space plans in coordination with local planning for future growth. The review process includes the following.

I. RATING OF APPLICANT COMMUNITIES AND THEIR RESPECTIVE PROJECTS ACCORDING TO THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENT COLLECTION
SEP 26 1984
University of Massachusetts
Depository Copy

A. Demographic Factors Maximum total 40 points

1. Population Density (persons per square mile) 10 points
   - weighted to favor municipalities with high population concentrations and therefore greater need for open space. Data from 1980 Census.

2. Percent of Households Below Poverty Level 10 points
   - weighted to give priority to municipalities having high percentages of their families below the poverty level. Data from 1980 census.

3. Median Income for Families and Unrelated Individuals 10 points
   -maximum points to be awarded to municipalities whose median income level is below the state median. Data from 1980 census.

4. Equalized Valuation Per Capita 10 points
   - preference given to municipalities with low equalized values, assuming equalized value reflects to some degree ability to pay for acquisition of open space. Data from Department of Corporations and Taxation, 1980.

5. Project-Specific Demographic Factors
   a. Project Accessibility by Public Transportation 5 points
   b. Project Service to Population Centers 5 points

B. Project Quality Characteristics Maximum total 50 points

1. Project Consistency with Local Open Space Plan 10 points
   -points to be awarded according to how well project realizes the goals and objectives of the local open space plan and how well it fulfills the needs of the municipality in lieu of alterantives to outright acquisition such as conservation restrictions, flood plain zoning, development controls, etc.

Publication# 13604-4-300-5-84-C.R.

Approved by: Daniel Carter, State Purchasing Agent

2. Protection of Water Resources — 10 points

3. Protection of Unique Natural, Historical or Cultural Features — 8 points

4. Provision of Multiple Uses — 7 points

5. Protection of Wildlife Resources — 5 points

6. Intergovernmental Effort — 10 points
-points to be awarded for project's consistency with policies and programs of other agencies i.e., the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, Coastal Zone Management, Regional Planning Agencies, or of other municipalities.

DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS POINT DISTRIBUTIONS

POINTS	DENSITY (Persons/Sq.Mi.)	POINTS	EQUALIZED VALUATION/CAPITA
0	0-100	0	75,000 + up
1	101-299	1	50,000-74,999
2	300-499	2	30,000-49,999
3	500-999	3	25,000-29,999
4	1,000-1,499	4	22,000-24,999
5	1,500-1,999	5	20,000-21,999
6	2,000-4,999	6	18,000-19,999
7	5,000-9,999	7	16,000-17,999
8	10,000-15,999	8	14,000-15,999
9	+16,000	9	13,000-13,999
10		10	below 13,000

POINTS	PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL	POINTS	MEDIAN INCOME (for families & unrelated individuals)
0	0.0 - 2.9	0	30,000 + up
1	3.0 - 4.9	1	24,000 -29,999
2	5.0 - 6.9	2	22,000 -23,999
3	7.0 - 7.9	3	20,000 -21,999
4	8.0 - 8.9	4	18,000 -19,999
5	9.0 - 9.9	5	16,000 -17,999
6	10.0 -10.9	6	15,000 -15,999
7	11.0 -11.9	7	14,000 -14,999
8	12.0 -12.9	8	13,000 -13,999
9	13.0 -14.9	9	12,000 -12,999
10	15.0 + up	10	below 12,000

II. INTERAGENCY REVIEW OF APPLICANT COMMUNITIES AND THEIR RESPECTIVE PROJECTS

The Division of Conservation Services will coordinate an inter-agency review of all Self-Help applications and submit all comments and recommendations to the applicants. The Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD) will utilize this review to make appropriate comments on the applicant communities' employment, contract and housing practices; and housing plans.

A. 301 CMR 50.0 Affirmative Action Regulations requires that E.O.E.A. agencies disbursing financial assistance require recipient agencies and organizations to undertake affirmative action programs designed to eliminate patterns and practices of discrimination due to race, color, sex, or national origin and to remedy the effects of underrepresentation and under-utilization of minorities and women.

   The Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination staff will evaluate each applicant community's past and present equal opportunity performance in accordance with MCAD Equal Employment Opportunity, Contract Compliance and Fair Housing Guidelines which will be available at the Commission offices, Room 601, One Ashburton Place, Boston, Massachusetts 02108.

B. Consistent with Executive Order# 215, Local Housing Policies and State Development Assistance,

   The Executive Office of Communities and Development shall make a determination, based on evidence submitted to it, regarding whether a city or town is or is not unreasonably restrictive of housing growth. In making this determination, the Office shall give special consideration to the city's or town's efforts to facilitate the development of housing for low and moderate income families. The city or town shall be notified in writing of the determination, and a negative determination shall be re-evaluated upon a showing of a significant effort toward policy re-direction. A listing of all determinations shall be distributed on a regular basis to all state agencies which disburse development-related assistance.

   It shall be the policy of the Division of Conservation Services not to award funds to municipalities which have been determined to be unreasonably restrictive of new housing growth unless a particular project is regionally significant, unique or in the public interest. Exemptions shall be subject to approval of the Commissioner of Administration.

III. REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS BY SELF-HELP FUND REVIEW COMMITTEE

An interagency committee appointed by the Secretary of Environmental Affairs will review Self-Help project applications and make funding recommendations to the Open Space Advisory Committee for forwarding to the Secretary of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs. The Committee will consist of representatives from:

Division of Conservation Services, Chairman
Executive Office Of Communities and Development, Department of Community Affairs
Water Resources Commission
Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination
Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions
Department of Environmental Management, Office of Planning(SCORP)
Office of Coastal Zone Management
Division of Fisheries and Wildlife & Public Access Board
Metropolitan District Commission
Department of Environmental Quality Engineering- Division of Water Supply

In reviewing applications and developing their funding recommendations the Self-Help Fund Review Committee will consider:

a. Project's consistency with and/or contribution to various agencies' policies and programs.

b. Amount of Self-Help funds received in past by municipality.

c. Muncipal housing situation(information and comments to be supplied by DCA).

d. Municipal equal employment opportunity situation (information and comments to be supplied by MCAD).

Staff from all the agencies listed above as members of the Self-Help Fund Review Committee will be available to provide information and assistance pertinent to their particular charges and areas of expertise.